

# **Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot**

## ***Fort Worth, TX***

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### **BACKGROUND**

EPA has selected the City of Fort Worth for a Brownfields Pilot. Established in 1849, Fort Worth has grown from an army outpost to a 308-square-mile business center with a population of approximately 484,500. Fort Worth is a diverse community with a 43 percent minority population. Approximately 17 percent of the city's population lives below the poverty level.

Fort Worth has historically been known for its cattle industry. During its more recent past, however, manufacturing, distribution, and technology activities have become a major part of the city's economy. As businesses have come and gone, urban industrial lands have been abandoned in favor of property outside the inner city. Fort Worth does not have extensive large brownfields; rather, much of the abandoned properties were formerly small-to-medium manufacturing operations and illegal dumping sites.

The Pilot will focus on the most industrialized parts of the city, with specific emphasis placed on Council Districts 2, 5, and 8, primarily in the eastern portions of the city. The minority populations in these communities (currently 69 percent, 65 percent, and 76 percent, respectively) have borne the brunt of the city's brownfields. Virtually all forms of commerce, except for convenience stores and gas stations, have vacated the area. These islands of small- to medium-

### **PILOT SNAPSHOT**



*Fort Worth, Texas*

**Date of Announcement:**  
March 1999

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets small- to medium-sized brownfields in the most industrialized areas throughout the eastern portions of the city.

#### **Contacts:**

Fort Worth Department of  
Environmental Management  
(817) 561-3799

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 6  
(214) 665-6736

Visit the EPA Region 6 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/bfpages/sfbfhome.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

sized abandoned properties have contributed to the deterioration of the neighborhood because of fewer job opportunities, potential increased health and safety hazards, and increased neighborhood crime.

## **OBJECTIVES**

With the aid of the Pilot, the city plans to create a strong and multi-disciplinary network to undertake brownfields assessment, cleanup and redevelopment. Although the city currently has no formal brownfields program, the Pilot efforts will combine with other city efforts to emphasize code compliance, property redevelopment, and sustainability issues. Fort Worth has already taken several steps to create incentives for redevelopment within or adjacent to the targeted areas (e.g., designated federal enterprise zone, tax increment financing districts, tax abatement program). Initial Pilot efforts will focus on organizing the community to assist with site identification and assessment. The Pilot will also create a geographical information system (GIS) database where environmental information is available in a real-time manner.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Identifying brownfield sites in conjunction with a network of government, private, and community stakeholders;
- Conducting at least ten Phase 1 assessments and three Phase II assessments;
- Preparing site cleanup design plans;
- Involving the public in site selection, assessment, and cleanup planning activities; and
- Developing a brownfields database to aid in long-term tracking of cleanup and end use activities.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*